

EDENSIDE PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2016

Present: Tracy Roxburgh, Harriet Pattinson, Sue Mackie, Sheila Fleming, Balinda Ball  
Pauline Carruthers, Lisa Bridgewater, Eva Reader, Cllr Tom Weatherston, Terni  
Jhooti, Jane Woodcock, Ginny Stewart, Diana Miers, Nicola Moir, Margaret Riddell,  
Anne Marie Bready, Angela Hinnigan, Jill Scott.

**1. Apologies:**

Victoria Horsburgh, Zoe Currie, Gail Stewart, Cheryl MacLean, Cllr Alec Nicol, Cllr Simon Mountford,  
Sheila Thomson

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

These were proposed as correct by Eva Reader and seconded by Nicola Moir.

**3. Head Teacher's Report**

Staffing

Our Depute Head Teacher, Jane Nimmo, is currently off sick and there is no capacity to have an acting Depute while she is off, this will have an impact but normal service will resume as soon as possible. Emma Brown P4/5BI is also off sick and Mr Brodie is covering the class alongside Miss Inglis.

The music vacancy went to advert but neither of the two applicants were suitable for the post. It was originally agreed that Mrs Morgan would cover the classes following plans left by Miss Dickson, however Mrs Thomson (P6) had baby Willow and Mrs Morgan interviewed for her maternity cover post and was successful. Mrs Jill Thomson will be covering music on a Wednesday morning and alternative full Wednesdays. Ms Bready will be covering the other ½ day. Mr Mabon, who is keen to help, will take over a Tuesday until Easter, once his disclosure and checks are completed. The post will probably be re-advertised in the new financial year.

Nursery

Scottish Borders Council have confirmed that they will move the nursery into the school from the portacabins. The current nursery accommodation will be used as a GP room and for storage. Nursery will go into P1-P2 classrooms and will be a secure part so that it can be isolated from the school during wrap around care which will come soon.

## Outdoor Area

The quote for the work has been received and is £6,000. The last two years Charity Begins at Home donation will be used towards this. The work will go ahead in the spring in the area in front of the dining room with tables added so that children can have lunch outside on nice days. The main entrance area will change alongside the nursery relocation.

## Other Items

We have three pupils attending the Paralympic finals and BSLT are providing hoodies for these pupils.

18 Netball girls are away to the finals tonight along with 3 parents and we are very grateful to the parents for volunteering to help Mrs Fairbairn.

Edenside has the largest number of pupils from all the primaries going to play in the finals of the Border Championship Brass Band at Hawick on Saturday with Miss Deans.

Four staff from Drumlanrig Primary School visited us after being recommended to view practice and pick up ideas. They visited Miss Rhead, Miss McManus, Mrs Inglis, Mrs White and Mrs McLears classes.

ParentPay is getting quicker and cutting staff time. We will not be doing school trips through this as there is a transaction charge to the school for each payment received. We will continue to accept cash for these.

Dalguise is booked and letters have been sent.

Ms Bready explained that we had saved lots of money on ink and paper by using emails and the website to get information home instead of letters in bags and asked for feedback from parents regarding how they felt it was working. Everyone was in agreement that they preferred it and there were no concerns raised.

We are delighted to have new windows fitted in the hall in October and these have been well tested by the weather.

There should have been a GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child) presentation but it was received with short notice so this will be added to the school website and discussed at the next meeting.

The school website is being updated regularly so it is worth checking on a regular basis. If something is added which is important, an email will be sent to advise parents. It was suggested that a facility be added to the site so that if something new is added, an email is automatically sent to parents.

## **4. Treasurer's Report**

There is over £4,400 in the bank. £6,600 has been given to the school this year for the kitchen, school trips, Xmas parties, M&M theatre production show, microphone system, Support for Learning books, Cameras for each year group and Characters from Fantasy Print.

If money is needed for a big expense then fundraising can be done specifically for it. Nursery could possibly need a new outdoor area once they have relocated.

## **5. Fundraising Report and Discussion**

Alison McGlasson has stepped down and Nicola Moir will take her place along with Lisa Bridgewater. Any help or ideas would be welcomed from parents. Any fundraising events which have worked in the past will take place again this year, i.e discos and the assault course which raises approx. £2000 through sponsor forms. There have been discussions about holding a big event in the summer again. Any plans for fundraising events will be emailed to parents via the school rather than bag drops in future and an option for parents to make suggestions or vote on ideas on the website was suggested to help get parents views. Non uniform days were discussed, however, these are mainly run by the charities committee within school as they are low fuss. £818.00 was raised by the 6 people who took part in the sponsored walk last year.

The Plough Hotel in Yetholm hold quiz nights and will be raising funds for the school on the 16<sup>th</sup> March. They ask that raffle prizes are donated and bar snacks. There is only room for one or two teams from the school as the event is well attended by the village people.

Harriet, Lisa and Nicola counted the “pennies in a bottle” which has so far raised £120.60 and there is still some more to be counted. This was in 18 bottles and one of them contained £4.49. A big bottle in each classroom was suggested which could be used to collect money for wet playtime games – Parent Council could match what is raised in each classroom. Children could get involved in counting and weighing the money and Sue Mackie will see if she can get a coin weigher for school.

Since September there have been no big events but £1388 has been raised  
£818.00 from the sponsored walk  
£169.80 from the dress down day  
£120.60 from “Pennies in a Bottle”  
£179.60 from the Christmas disco.

It was asked what parents thought of the idea of Christmas cards as it has been a few years since they were last done. It was agreed that this was a good idea and these should be designed at home to give children more time to complete.

Fundraising meetings have not been well attended during the school day so these will follow on from the Parent Council meetings in future and anyone who wishes to stay for them can.

The children really enjoy the discos and parents like that they pay £2 for entry, juice and crisps. Future discos will be Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter ones to encourage more children to attend. Some parents felt that the last disco was too close to Christmas.

A car boot sale which could be held in the staff playground prior to the Easter holidays and could incorporate a coffee morning had been discussed by the Fundraising group but a license may be required for this event. The bonfire/firework night was a huge health and safety issue so not viable. A summer event which is more about having fun than raising money is to be looked at in more detail

i.e. a summer picnic with face painting. The next meeting will be held after the Parent Council meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

## **6. ParentPay**

Some parents said remembering to order meals can be an issue but most are ordering for the week ahead as done previously with the envelopes. Sheets with pupils choices are sent to the classrooms in a morning and if a pupil is absent, their meal is cancelled and a refund automatically given. Money for meals are charged to the account on the day of the booking. The school kitchen has a tight budget so number of portions has to be accurate.

## **7. Daily “Mile”**

This has been started at St Ninian’s Primary, Stirling by a teacher and all children run or walk briskly for 15 minutes per day around the school in their uniform, in all weathers. The “mile” is just a name and no specific distance is covered. There are no children at St Ninians who are overweight or obese and it is good for concentration, fitness and health. The programme is rolling out across schools. There would need to be an appropriate ratio of staff to oversee who would need to run with the pupils and an area would need to be measured and marked off so that staff could see the pupils running. Ms Bready suggested that Harriet Campbell and Diane Miers research how other schools are doing it and get feedback from parents

## **8. Any Other Business**

Harriet Campbell thanked Harriet Pattinson for the hard work she has put into the project at the front of the school.

Cartons of juice in school packed lunches – it was asked if cartons can be taken out of bags and be replaced with water. Ms Bready said that she would speak to the kitchen and ask them to put water on the tables in the dining room on a Friday.

Parents dropping off/collecting children from the playground will be looked at in more detail and a risk assessment carried out as there will be a high level of congestion and there will not be space round the back of the school when nursery relocates. There is no expectation that parents stay with children in a morning until the bell rings as there are enough staff in the playground to monitor. Currently children are unable to play in a morning due to the number of parents waiting.

There is a meeting regarding staffing this month so that all children will know before the summer who their teacher will be when they return in August.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 27 April 2016.